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“Reshaping Europe in a multi-polar world – can the European Union rise to the challenge?”

Globalisation and the emergence of economic players such as the BRIC countries of Brazil, Russia, India and China have led to predictions that US hegemony will quickly decline as a new world order emerges. With the European Union (EU) also facing a downgrading of its own status as economic, political and cultural power shifts from the west to the east – now is the time to ensure the union has a strategy in place to remain an influential global actor despite its lack of natural resources and member state sovereign debt arising from the 2008/9 economic crisis. Only concerted efforts at institutional future-proofing (widening and deepening) by the EU and a global vision for the supranational body will ensure its survival and prosperity.